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To
Mr Frans Timmermans
Vice-President of the European Commission
for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations,
the Rule of Law
and the Charter of Fundamental Rights

by e-mail: frans-timmermans-contact@ec.europa.eu
and delivered in person in Prague

Prague, 28 February 2017

Introducing the Platform of European Memory and Conscience - and kind request for a meeting and support of our work by the European Commission

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

On behalf of our President Mr Göran Lindblad, I would like to welcome you in Prague on the occasion of your visit to unveil the memorial to former Dutch Foreign Minister Mr Max van der Stoep who came here to meet Charter 77 spokesman prof. Jan Patočka 40 years ago. Mr Johann Grünbauer, Chairman of our Dutch Member organisation, *Stichting geschiedenis totalitaire regimes en hun slachtoffers*, will be attending the event too.

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is an international non-governmental organisation established in Prague in October 2011, with an endorsement by a resolution of the European Parliament and conclusions of the Council of the European Union. Our Members are public and private institutions and organisations dealing with the subject of totalitarianism on European soil. The Platform works on projects on the European level focusing on research, education, commemoration and justice. Our driving force is our wish to contribute to the European democratic integration, to educate the broad European public across the former East-West divide and to prevent the possible recurrence of any non-democratic rule in the future. Please find more information about our Members and goals on our website www.memoryandconscience.eu.

We are enclosing some of our educational products – a reader “**Lest We Forget. Memory of Totalitarianism in Europe**” for older secondary students anywhere in Europe which we have published in five languages so far, a catalogue of our international travelling exhibition “**Totalitarianism in Europe**” which has been

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The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is an interest association of legal persons founded according to the Civil Code of the Czech Republic and registered at the Municipal Court of Prague under section L, insert 58675. Id.-No.: 72559071.

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Members:
55 institutions
and organisations
from 13 EU
Member States,
Ukraine, Moldova,
Iceland, Albania,
Canada and the USA

working in the field
of coming to terms
with the legacy
of totalitarianism
on European soil

presented in 20 large cities in 18 countries of Europe and North America, including the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and our brand-new educational board game in English, “**Across the Iron Curtain**” teaching about human rights violations under Communism and escapes of refugees to democratic countries in Europe during the Cold War. Also enclosed are two brochures from our ongoing project “**JUSTICE 2.0**” aimed at attaining international justice for the imprescriptible crimes of Communism.

In the five years of its existence, the number of Members of our Platform has increased 2.5-fold and our work is gaining international recognition. We have become partners to Presidencies of the Council of the European Union in organising commemoration events and conferences. Our Board of Trustees includes personalities who have contributed to the European democratisation and unification process, a number of whom serve as Members of the European Parliament. Media such as the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, the Times of London and the BBC have covered our work. Our call to create a new supranational institution of justice for the unresolved crimes of Communism has been responded to by Estonia in the Tallinn Declaration of 2015, and recently, by Poland.

Dear Vice-President Timmermans, as a non-governmental organisation, our existence is fully dependent on grants. Unfortunately, despite efforts, we have not been able to obtain financial support from the European Commission. We have repeatedly applied for and been denied project funding as well as operating cost grants from the EACEA’s Europe for Citizens programme, although the Commission had suggested such funding for the Platform of European Memory and Conscience as an important European initiative in its report to the Parliament and the Council of 2010¹.

Dear Vice-President, hereby I would like to kindly ask you for an opportunity to meet you either in our office in Prague or in Brussels, to present our ongoing and planned projects and to ask for your personal support as well as for the support of the European Commission for our work. We believe that the contribution toward building and maintaining a better integrated, stronger, democratic Europe which the Platform of European Memory and Conscience can offer, based on the historical experience and expertise of our Members, is invaluable. We would be truly pleased if we could become a partner of the European Commission in working toward this goal, which is more urgent than ever before, given the worrying rise of nationalism and extremism in Europe today.

Looking forward to a positive answer I remain;

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Neela Winkelmann
Managing Director

¹ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council “*The memory of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes in Europe*” of 22 December 2010, chapter 3.3.